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## PLATO'S IDEAL STATE AND ITS PLACE IN HISTORY

*Annotation. The concept of an ideal state of the philosopher, who had a great influence on the political and philosophical thought of later ages is discussed. The political doctrine of Plato is analysed. A conclusion is made that despite the remoteness of its origin the teaching about an ideal state is among the most famous ones and presents an ideal type of communal and political life instead of the existing one.*

*Анотація. Розглянуто концепцію ідеальної держави філософа, який значно вплинув на політичну і філософську думку наступних епох. Проаналізовано політичне вчення Платона. Зроблено висновок про те, що, не дивлячись на давність свого походження, вчення про ідеальну державу є одним з найбільш відомих і являє собою ідеальний тип суспільного і політичного життя та взамін існуючого.*

*Аннотация. Рассмотрена концепция идеального государства философа, оказавшего большое влияние на политическую и философскую мысль последующих эпох. Проанализировано политическое учение Платона с сделан вывод о том, что несмотря на давность своего происхождения, учение об идеальном государстве является одним из наиболее знаменитых и представляет собой идеальный тип общежития и политической жизни взамен существующего.*

*Keywords: Plato, ideal state, justice.*

Why are there no family ties? Why is justice the core of the state? And why are most of us unable to understand the concept of life? Nowadays one of the most important and well-known philosophical treatises of the ancient world is Plato's "Republic" (360 B.C.), where we can see how Plato describes an ideal aristocratic state and the way people should behave in order to elevate justice, beauty, music, wisdom and poetry.

In Plato's perfect state the philosopher is the ruler. Citizens have to obey the authority, there is no single relationship and there is death penalty for those who violated such way of life. Some people may argue about the theory that it is impossible to be happy without freedom, nevertheless Plato demonstrates that real slavery is imprisonments with senses and only with the help of the government where physical existence does not dominate the soul's will, citizens can achieve real happiness and freedom.

Plato's aristocratic state is divided into three main classes. The first one comprises magistrates who are selected from the guardians, warriors and artisans [1]. The guardian class is the class of philosophers who control the censorship of poetry and art, decide the educational principles. Also they guarantee the prosperity of the state. The leader of the state must be virtuous; as he is philosopher he has an opportunity to distinguish between illusory and real needs of people. So the major role of the guardians is to make people grow spiritually.

Another class is the "militaries" – a group of people who protect the state, all their needs provided by citizens. The last class is the artisan. They must obey the upper classes, as they hope that laws and rules are projected to make the virtues. As Plato said: "There is no happiness without virtues" [2].

Feminism and gender politics played one of the main roles in the development of Plato's ideal state, that is, women are equal to men, and they can do the same activities as men do. The only one connection between men and women is serving the population, they do not get married – all women equally belong to all men and vice versa. Plato considered family ties harmful because you become attached only to a certain group of people – but your aim is to regard the whole community as a large family. Avoiding family ties, people will work to serve the whole community. However, the artisans were allowed to have families. According to the natural skills children are educated by state, e.g. if a child is interested in music he or she must be educated to become a musician.

In the ideal state a lot of time is spent on the development of music, arts, poetry and literature, they were very important to Plato. Every person in the state should be culturally developed [3]. Music, literature and poetry which blamed the gods for all bad things was banned, the censorship was very strict, for example words like "hell" were completely forbidden, so that people knew they were responsible for their actions.

As Plato was making an ideal state, he tried to make everything perfect, even people's appearance. That's why gymnastics was very important; gymnastics was equal to education because a weak body cannot serve the state [4]. Two components: strong body and virtuous soul cannot exist without each other. First, man would be fragile without the second one, in turn, the second component without

Why do we not understand Plato's concept of an ideal state? The answer is very obvious. The problem is that our today's society is not based on virtues; it is completely grounded on money. The majority of people cannot imagine their life without a new telephone or a new pair of shoes, but they can easily live without mutual help, charity work etc. The ultimate goal of our capitalist world is to make people financially richer; we want to admit it in most cases at the expense of others. People forgot what spiritual values and virtues are.

All in all, we can say that in order to understand the Platonic state we have to abandon the materialistic view of the world and the purpose of our life should be the perfection of the soul. Without this idea we cannot reach Plato's idea about his ideal state.

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